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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/599,000

09/18/2006

Kouji Hatano

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52054

7590

03/18/2009

PEARNE & GORDON LLP
1801 EAST 9TH STREET
SUITE 1200
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108

EXAMINER

WANG-HURST, KATHY W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/18/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patdocket@pearne.com
dchervenak@pearne.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/599,000	Applicant(s) HATANO, KOUJI	
	Examiner KATHY WANG-HURST	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 1/6/2009 has been entered. Claims 1-5 are amended. Claim 6 is cancelled. Claims 1-5 and 7-12 are still pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicants argued features wherein an information terminal and method employing a reproducing procedure when there is an incoming event occurs while the information terminal is reproducing contents, and superposing both reporting of incoming event and reproducing content in such a way so that the superposition is changed gradually, read upon Tagawa in view of Dean as follows.

Tagawa discusses a mobile phone having a reproduction unit reproducing music, detecting an incoming call from outside, instructing reproduction unit to perform a fade-out process of reproducing music data and to perform a fade-in process of outputting a ring tone when an incoming call is detected. Thus Tagawa shows limitation of "discloses an information terminal, comprising: a reproducing unit that reproduces contents; an informing unit that informs an occurrence of an event; a superposing unit that superposes an output of the reproducing unit and an output of the informing unit; and a controlling unit that controls an information of the occurrence of the event and a superposition of the output of the reproducing unit and the output of the informing unit in a reproducing procedure so that the superposition is changed gradually." Tagawa

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discusses a reproducing procedure may be selected from different procedures based on different scenarios. Dean discusses reproducing procedure is selected based on meta data of the content. Therefore Tagawa in view of Dean shows the limitation of “ a reproducing procedure selected from a plurality of reproducing procedures based on meta information extracted from the contents.

Therefore, the argued limitations read upon the cited references or are written broad such that they read upon the cited references, as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tagawa et al (US 2002/0045438) in view of Dean et al. (6,771,323).

Regarding claim 1, Tagawa discloses an information terminal, comprising:
a reproducing unit that reproduces contents ([0020], [0062], [0065], where Tagawa discusses playing music files, therefore a reproducing unit); an informing unit that informs an occurrence of an event ([0020], [0068], ring tone output unit to inform incoming calls); a superposing unit that superposes an output of the reproducing unit and an output of the informing unit ([0020] outputting a ring tone while the reproduction unit is reproducing playing music, therefore superimposing the outputs); and a controlling unit that controls an information of the occurrence of the event and a

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superposition of the output of the reproducing unit and the output of the informing unit in a reproducing procedure selected from a plurality of reproducing procedures ([0020] and [0026] a control unit controlling events and executing [0023] different reproduction modes previously set) so that the superposition is changed gradually ([0112]).

Tagawa also discloses the reproducing procedure is selected based on information extracted from the communication partner ([0023]), however, Tagawa fails to disclose the reproducing procedure is selected based on meta information extracted from contents. Dean teaches the reproducing procedure is selected based on meta information extracted from contents (see col. 4 lines 25-60 and col. 15 lines 15-30, where Dean discusses metadata for defining the output function, therefore choosing the reproducing procedure).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Tagawa, have reproducing procedure is selected based on meta information extracted from contents as taught by Marshall, thus allowing more efficient playback and reproduction of content, as discussed by Dean, (col. 1 lines 20-47).

Regarding to claim 2, Tagawa discloses the information terminal according to claim 1, further comprising: a storing unit that stores the plurality of the reproducing procedures ([0074] lines 3-5, a memory that stores reproduction methods); and an extracting unit that extracts the meta information to select the reproducing procedure from the contents, wherein the controlling unit causes the superposition of the output of the reproducing unit and the output of the informing unit and the information of the

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occurrence of the event to execute in the reproducing procedure selected based on the extracted meta information ([0068]).

Regarding claim 3, Tagawa discloses the information terminal according to claim 1, further comprising: a storing unit that stores the plurality of the reproducing procedures ([0074] lines 3-5, a memory that stores reproduction methods); and an acquiring unit ([0150] acquire data) that acquires data that is corresponded to the contents. ([0068] it is inherent that there exists an acquiring unit to acquire data so that the control unit can execute).

Regarding claim 4, Tagawa discloses the information terminal according to claim 1, further comprising: a storing unit that stores the plurality of the reproducing procedures; and a sensing unit that senses a state of the terminal ([0068] can sense/detect the state of the terminal, i.e. terminal is reproducing music when a call arrives), wherein the reproducing procedure is selected based on the sensed state of the terminal ([0068]).

Regarding claim 5, Tagawa discloses a method of informing an event that occurs during reproduction of contents, controlling a superposition of an output of a reproducing unit and a output of an informing unit and an informing of an occurrence of an event in a reproducing procedure selected from a plurality of reproducing procedures so that the superposition is changed gradually ([0068]).

Tagawa also discloses the reproducing procedure is selected based on information extracted from the communication partner ([0023]), however, Tagawa fails to disclose the reproducing procedure is selected based on meta information extracted

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from contents. Dean teaches the reproducing procedure is selected based on meta information extracted from contents (see col. 4 lines 25-60 and col. 15 lines 15-30, where Dean discusses metadata for defining the output function, therefore choosing the reproducing procedure).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Tagawa, have reproducing procedure is selected based on meta information extracted from contents as taught by Marshall, thus allowing more efficient playback and reproduction of content, as discussed by Dean, (col. 1 lines 20-47).

Regarding claim 7, Tagawa discloses the method of informing the event according to claim 5, wherein the reproducing procedure is selected based on information that is corresponded to the contents ([0075]).

Regarding claim 8, Tagawa discloses the method of informing the event according to claim 5, wherein the reproducing procedure is selected based on a state of a terminal ([0067] - [0069]).

Regarding Claims 9-12, combination of Tagawa and Dean teaches the meta information contains type of the contents being reproduced and information indicating scenario information.

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KATHY WANG-HURST whose telephone number is (571) 270-5371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30am-5pm, alternate Fridays, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Corsaro can be reached on (571) 272-7876. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KATHY WANG-HURST/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/NICK CORSARO/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617